

# Hawaii Vegetables

Donald A. Martin, Director

July 2004

## Beneficial weather helps crops

Warm temperatures, longer daylight hours, sunny skies, and the absence of major storms enabled most vegetables to make fair-to-good progress during June. The summer-like conditions were most prevalent on the Big Island which received below-normal amounts of rain during the month. Near-normal rainfall, however, did occur in some eastern areas of the island such as Mountain View, Pahoa, and the upper areas around Hilo town. The western islands (Kauai and Oahu), on the other hand, were wetter than normal during June. More importantly for agriculture was that the rainfall was spread throughout the month and not concentrated in heavy, sudden downpours. Most of these showers were carried in by the trade winds and so were concentrated in windward and higher elevations areas. Maui county received a mix of rainfall with some stations showing above-normal amounts and others recording drier than normal conditions.

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Year-ago, month-ago, current,  
and upcoming harvested  
acreage.

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Production statistics and  
comments on selected crops.

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Second quarter review and the  
outlook for the third quarter.

Harvested acreage is expected to remain steady or increase for most vegetables during July. Double-digit percentage increases will be recorded by **snap beans** (+77%) and **head lettuce** (+20%). Other vegetables anticipated to show an increase are **Chinese cabbage** (+6%) and **head cabbage** (+3%). Harvested acreage for **sweet corn**, **cucumbers**, **semi-head lettuce**, and **green onions** are expected to remain unchanged in July. Decreases in harvested acreage are expected for **mustard cabbage** (-19%), **dry onions** (-69%), and **romaine** (-10%).

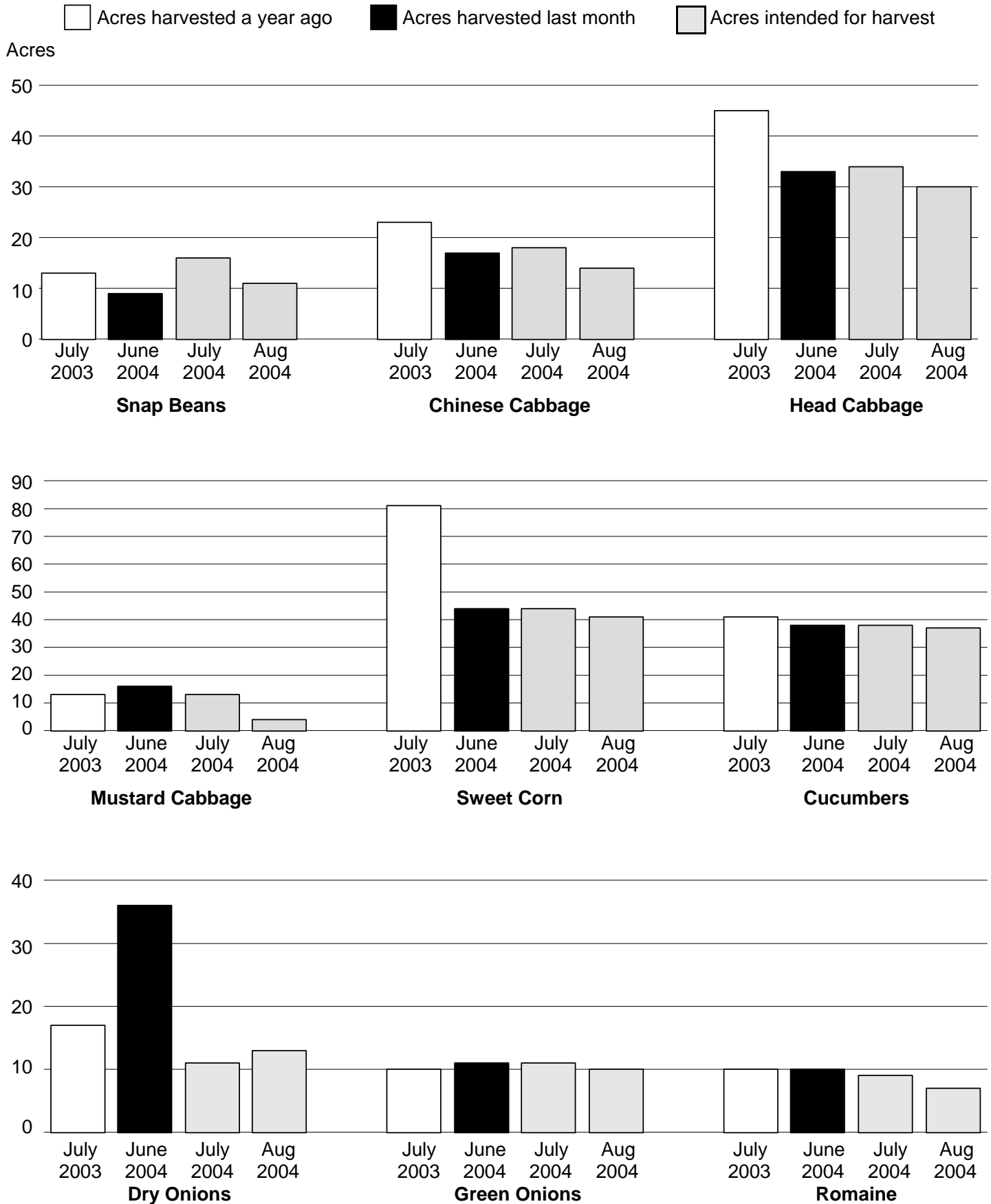
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### Acreage

Acres planted, harvested, and for harvest for 11 selected  
vegetables, State of Hawaii.

Crop	Acres planted		Acres harvested		Acres for harvest	
	May 2004	Jun 2004	May 2004	Jun 2004	Jul 2004	Aug 2004
Beans, snap	19	16	12	9	16	11
Cabbage, Chinese	17	23	17	17	18	14
Cabbage, head	36	35	39	33	34	30
Cabbage, mustard	17	10	11	16	13	4
Corn, sweet	45	33	59	44	44	41
Cucumbers	38	37	39	38	38	37
Lettuce, head	6	6	5	5	6	4
Lettuce, semi-head	4	4	4	4	4	4
Onions, dry	17	14	12	36	11	13
Onions, green	11	10	11	11	11	10
Romaine	11	11	11	10	9	7

# Harvested acreage charts



# June review

## Favorable weather aids production

**CHINESE CABBAGE** production is estimated at 420,000 pounds for June, down 10 percent from the previous month and down 24 percent from a year ago. Crop growth was rapid under summer-like conditions. Interisland shipments were delayed by the tugboat worker's strike.

**HEAD CABBAGE** production totaled 948,000 pounds in June, up 7 percent from May but down 9 percent from a year ago. Irrigation was heavy. Insect pressure was being controlled by spraying. Weeds were a problem in some fields. Overall, the crop was in fair to good condition.

**SWEET CORN** production is estimated at 143,000 pounds, down 15 percent from last month and down 37 percent from a year ago. Plantings were in good condition having recovered from earlier rains. Some farmers reported problems with obtaining seed.

**CUCUMBER** production is estimated at 658,000 pounds for June, up 37

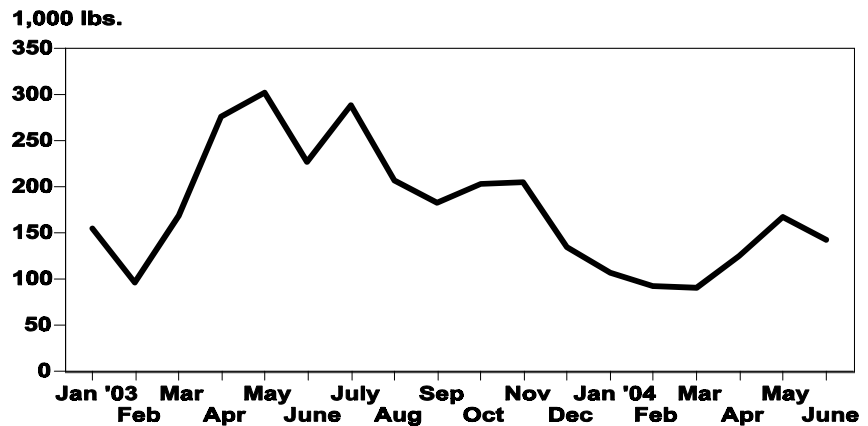
percent from last month but unchanged from a year ago. Crop conditions were generally good.

**DRY ONION** production is pegged at 260,000 pounds for June, the highest monthly total this year and more than double the production last month. The advent of summer-like conditions benefitted all onion growers. Overall, fields were in fair to good condition.

**TOMATO** production is estimated at

1.5 million pounds in June, down 2 percent from last month but up 2 percent from a year ago. Crop conditions were generally good with favorable flower and fruit set due to beneficial weather conditions during the month of June.O

**Hawaii Sweet corn:  
Monthly Production, 2003 - 2004**



## Acreage, average yield, sales, and average farm price, June 2004, State of Hawaii.

Crop	Total acres on Jul 1 <sup>st</sup>	June 2004				January-to-date sales		
		Acres harvested	Average yield <sup>1/</sup>	Total sales	Average farm price	2003 <sup>2/</sup>	2004	Change
----- 1,000 lbs. -----      Cents per lb.      ----- 1,000 lbs -----      Percent								
Beans, snap	27	9	8.9	80	92.0	435	382	-12
Cabbage, Chinese	32	17	24.7	420	29.8	3,589	2,560	-29
Cabbage, head	67	33	28.7	948	25.1	7,352	4,424	-40
Cabbage, mustard	15	16	8.6	138	47.4	644	723	12
Corn, sweet	98	44	3.3	143	56.2	1,226	727	-41
Cucumbers	61	38	17.3	658	42.5	2,820	2,365	-16
Lettuce, head	9	5	15.4	77	53.0	400	383	-4
Lettuce, semi-head	8	4	9.5	38	76.0	177	149	-16
Onions, dry	47	36	7.2	260	87.3	2,047	672	-67
Onions, green	26	11	9.1	100	86.5	720	522	-28
Peppers, green	3/	21	12.5	263	65.1	1,596	1,509	-5
Romaine	16	10	13.5	135	48.2	1,034	718	-31
Tomatoes	3/	60	25.2	1,509	61.5	8,586	7,384	-14

<sup>1/</sup> Total sales divided by acres harvested. <sup>2/</sup> Revised. <sup>3/</sup> Not published to avoid disclosure of individual operations.

## U.S. Fresh-market Vegetable Outlook

### Second quarter shipments fall

During the second quarter (April-June), shipment of fresh market vegetables and melons will likely fall below those of a year earlier. Lower marketing during April and much of May will likely outweigh much stronger June volume. May fresh shipments were down 4 percent from a year ago, partly reflecting bouts of excessive heat in the West and cool, wet, windy early spring weather in some Eastern growing areas. In addition, cool, wet weather early in the Mexican desert-growing season slowed exports of crops such as tomatoes to the United States.

This spring shipping-point prices for fresh market vegetables in the aggregate have declined about 2 percent from the winter quarter (Jan.-Mar.). Compared with last spring, price changes were mixed among commodities. Notable declines were experienced for dry-bulb onions (which were coming off the record-highs of last spring) and head lettuce, which outweighed gains for field-grown tomatoes and carrots. Higher prices in the first quarter was a response to weather-damaged crops in Mexico and intermittent supply gaps in domestic production

caused by cool weather.

### Summer supply and demand expected strong

At this time, the outlook for the summer season appears to favor improved supplies and generally lower prices than a year ago. However, shipping-point prices may only be marginally lower than a year earlier (down 2 to 4 percent) assuming improved demand brought on by a combination of drier weather (allowing more outdoor activities) and a rapidly strengthening economy. A year ago, heavy, untimely rains and lack of sunshine in eastern growing regions such as the Carolinas, New Jersey, and the Delmarva Peninsula reduced summer volume and quality. This year, although weather has been unsettled in the Pacific Northwest and arid in the Mountain States, crops have been slightly ahead of a year earlier in California, and conditions in the East have generally been favorable for improved yields. ■

Source: *Vegetable and melons outlook*, VGS-303, June 24, 2004, Economic Research Service, USDA.